

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Rumania	REPORT NO.	25X1A
SUBJECT	Imex: Import Company for Books, Periodicals and Objects d' Art 25X1C	DATE DISTR.	16 April 1953
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
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1. Imex is the only state company in Rumania dealing with the import of books, newspapers and periodicals from the USSR and its satellites and from Western countries. The main office and depot are located at 41 Strada Foisorului, Bucharest. There are two other depots in Bucharest. The company has separate departments for the USSR, the satellites, and the Western countries, in addition to Planning and Cadre departments. Imex employs approximately 2,000 clerks and other personnel in its main office, who receive an average salary of 11,250 lei per month. The manager receives 30,000 lei, and a messenger about 3,900 lei.
2. Though nominally under the control of the Centrul de Difuzare al Cartii si al Pressei (Center for the Distribution of Books and Periodicals), actually Imex places its orders entirely on its own responsibility. The main customers of the company are the Academia Romana (Rumanian Academy), the Council of Ministers, various ministries, and commercial and industrial state companies.
3. The company is supplied by an unknown firm in Moscow, and by the McGraw and Van Rynsick firms in the United States. Payments up to \$20,000 have been made to the latter firms for technical and scientific works, and it is presumed that only a part of the shipment remains in Rumania, the rest going to the USSR, because the Bucharest depots have never received such large quantities of books. Payments are effected through the State Bank to Western countries in dollars and to the USSR through barter goods.
4. The company is visited every week by the Soviet Commercial and Propaganda Attachés. Soviet propaganda literature which could not be sold in France was returned from there in accordance with orders received from Moscow. The Imex depots contain unsalable Soviet propaganda material to a value of about 500 million lei.

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5. In January 1951 about 40,000 fancy articles, such as wood carvings, dolls, and decorated office utensils (sic) of pressed cardboard, were imported from the USSR at a cost of 25 million lei, which amount was immediately remitted to the Moscow exporters. The state book and art stores were to sell these goods, but as sales were extremely slow various ministries, including the Ministry of Trade, Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Finance, undertook to sell them to their officials, who could not well refuse to buy Soviet art when offered the opportunity.
6. The following personalities are known:
  - a. Johann (fmu), general manager. He is 26 years old, tall, thin, blond, a German from Bessarabia, and a former metal worker. He is capable and intelligent but is consumptive. He was a fellow prison inmate of Techari Georgescu.
  - b. Vexa (lnu), assistant manager. She is 30 years old, short, has brown hair, wears glasses, and is very strict. She is a Party member.
  - c. Weiss (fmu), assistant manager. He is 50 years old, tall, stout, has grey hair, is from Transylvania, and is not capable. He is a Party member.

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